

## Abstract

RESEARCH SUBJECT: Pain Management in Surgical Patients

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Acute post-operative pain is a major problem which is not well addressed clinically; with patients regularly reporting significant pain following surgery (Clark, 2006). The possible harmful effects of untested surgical pain include: deep vein thrombosis, increase in myocardial oxygen consumption, respiratory infection, muscle spasms, increase post-operative stress, anxiety, fear, sleeplessness, and possible chronic pain (Clark, 2006). The purpose of this study is to: (a) obtain local data on surgical pain intensity and patient satisfaction, (b) degree of pain relief, (c) satisfaction with pain healthcare provider's responsiveness to patients' reports of pain. This is a replication of Chung and Lui's (2003) study. The sample will include patients having out patient surgery under general anesthesia. The surgical procedure will vary from general surgical procedures, ENT procedures, and gynecology procedures. Patients will be asked to consent to the survey before having surgery, monitored in recovery, and will be asked to fill out a survey in ambulatory surgery before leaving for home. The American Pain Society questionnaire was used to measure patient satisfaction with pain management. (Chung, 2003) The findings will provide information about how to increase post-operative pain relief in surgical patients.